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Application/Control Number: 10/609,454

Art Unit: 1746

EXAMINER'S COMMENTS & STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference characters "4" and "5" have both been used to designate the "grip plate". A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Allowable Subject Matter

- Claims 1-21 are allowed.
- 3. The following is a statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art of record, DE 3101745, fails to teach each and every limitation of the instant invention. Specifically, DE 3101745 fails to teach or suggest the claimed laundry machine with slidable detergent drawer having an arresting device for operating a catch (lock) for childproofing, which is disclosed as an essential element of claimed invention, as described in independent claims 1, 8 and 15.
- 4. For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 1-21 are believed to recite patentable subject matter.
- 5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

Application/Control Number: 10/609,454

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

US 5,687,590 to Borroni *et al.*, which discloses a laundry machine with slidable detergent drawer.

US 5,253,494 to Frucco *et al.*, which discloses a slidable detergent addition drawer in a washing machine.

EP 0 465 800 to Gerhardt, which discloses a motorized detergent dispenser drawer in a washing machine.

- 7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph L. Perrin, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571)272-1305. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:00-4:30, except alternate Fridays.
- 8. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Randy P. Gulakowski can be reached on (571)272-1302. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Joseph L. Perrin, Ph.D. Examiner
Art Unit 1746

jlp

FRANKIE L. STINSON PRIMARY EXAMINER GROUP 4400